

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 29-45 remain pending in the Application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections

Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, the Office's suggestion (at Action page 2, second paragraph) to file a terminal disclaimer is accepted. Hence, a terminal disclaimer is filed herewith with regard to US Patent 6,776,306 B1. Acceptance thereof is respectfully requested.

As all outstanding issues have been overcome, Applicants respectfully submit that the application in condition for allowance.

Request for withdraw of the Final rejection

In the Office Action dated April 28, 2005, claims 32-40 and 42 were indicated allowable if rewritten in an independent form. In Applicants' response (filed June 23, 2005) to the Office's invitation, at least claims 33 and 38 were written in the requested independent format.

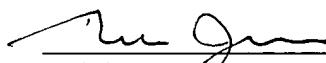
If claims are amended at the suggestion of the Office and their scope remains unchanged, then it is unclear how a new rejection against these same claims can be made final. It is unclear how the requested amendment filed by Applicants could have necessitated a new ground of rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the final rejection is premature, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Each of Applicant's pending claims specifically recites features and relationships that are neither disclosed nor suggested in the applied prior art. Allowance of all of Applicants' pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

The undersigned will be happy to discuss any aspect of the Application by telephone at the Office's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,


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